MITYANA DIOCESE

BISHOP WILSON MUTEBI AND MRS. FAITH J. MUTEBI'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO ALL CHRISTIANS AND FRIENDS OF MITYANA DIOCESE 1993

We wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a very happy and prosperous 1994. Our message for this Christmas comes from the Gospel according to St. Matthew 1: 20-21 (Good News).

'WHILE HE WAS THINKING ABOUT THIS AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM AND SAID, "JOSEPH DESCENDANT OF DAVID, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY TO BE YOUR WIFE. FOR IT IS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT SHE WAS CONCEIVED. SHE WILL HAVE A SON AND YOU WILL NAME HIM JESUS BECAUSE HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."

It was a moment of great disappointment for both Joseph and Mary. Joseph had been forced to break their engagement because of the unexpected pregnancy! In such a situation an angel of the Lord appeared and conveyed a message of great hope. A son was to be born and He was to be called Jesus because He would save His people from sins.

At Christmas all Christians need to look back with gratitude and praise to God for the birth into this world of a Saviour. While we rejoice for all the good things we have received, let us come in genuine repentence for our sins we have received, let us come to call upon the name of Jesus in all our times of trial and frustrations, for the Saviour is always near.

This Christmas our companionship with the Diocese of Pennsylvania which we have enjoyed since 1988 will officially come to an end. The Suffragan Bishop Franklin Turner of Pennsylvania has been invited to preach at our Ordination Service on Sunday 19th Decemoer, 1993 which will also officially mark the end of in genuine repentence to our sins we have committed. We need our companionship.

We give praise to God for the many things we have been able to do during this time of our collaboration. We thank God for

the Builders Apprenticeship Programme which the Diocese of Pennysylvania has helped us to begin and remain a permanent feature of our Ministry. Pennsylvania donated to us a Tata Lorry to enable the Diocese support the Builders Apprenticeship Programme.

During the six years of our fellowship there has been wonderful opportunities for both Clergy and Laity to exchange visits which have often resulted into material and spiritual benefits. We offer sincere gratitude to Bishop Allen L. Bartlett, the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, The Suffragn Bishop Franklin Turner, Mr. Isaac Clothier, The Chairman of the Companion Diocese Committee and all our brothers and sisters in Pennsylvania, for their sincere love and concern for the people of Mityana.

We also thank God for the Ministry of Action Swiss Return based in Switzerland for the great assistance they have given to us. The Diocese now has three Dispensaries: Maama Norah, Kyanamugera and Bukwiri. These Dispensaries have been constructed with the financial assistance given by the Auction Swiss Return and are ready for the inauguration ceremony in February, 1994. We have also received grants to support Mityana Diocese School of Home Economics and its branch at Mubende. They have also greatly assisted our programme of the community based health care. We express special gratitude to Mr. Heinz and Mrs. Vreni Schauferberger who have been personally involved in this work. We also thank Revd. Max and Mrs. Ruth Wyttenbach, Prof. John and Mrs. Verena Mbiti for their prayers and continued concern for us.

We have been very specially blessed in this year through the work of evangelisation done by our Department of Mission. Many people have come to a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ through this work. We would like to mention particularly the ministry of the World Home Bible League which has enabled our people to get Bibles as well as being assisted to acquire methods of Bible study.

We eagerly await the visit of our brother Ken and Sister Tricia Neeves who are due to arrive in the Diocese during the month

of January 1994 from the Diocese of Winchester. In the same year we hope to receive Prof. Charles and Dr. Mary Preston from Newfoundland Canada. Charles will help to teach Pastoral Theology while Mary will help with Medical work at Maama Norah.

Finally we thank God for our President and Government for all the good effort to bring about peace and stability in this country. In this year we particularly praise God for the successful coronation of Ssabasajja Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II as well as the restoration of the cultural sites in different places of Uganda. All these have been very joyfully celebrated. We would urge alle of you to continue praying for the Government in its good effort to maintain peace, stability and good government.
Very sincerely, brethren.

The Rt. Revd. Wilson and Mrs. Faith J. Mutebi.
MITYANA DIOCESE (CHURCH OF UGANDA)